

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Public Comment for Total Maximum Daily Load Studies in Red Bank
Creek and a portion of Machipongo River,
located in Northampton and Accomack Counties

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will provide a public comment period for water quality studies for Red Bank Creek and a portion of Machipongo River, located in Northampton and Accomack Counties. Since the final public meeting, changes to the TMDL reduction scenario tables have been made. Before EPA can approve the TMDL report, the revisions are being made available for public comment and review.

The report and revisions may be accessed on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs.aspx>

Red Bank Creek (Enterococci, E.coli, Fecal coliform) and Machipongo River (Fecal coliform, Enterococci), were identified in Virginia's 2010 Water Quality Assessment & Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for recreation bacteria and shellfish consumption bacteria and do not support the Designated Uses. The Red Bank Creek watershed includes both riverine and tidal portions of the Creek. The Machipongo River watershed only includes the estuarine area of the stream covered from the end of tidal waters downstream to 0.5 mile south of Rt 182.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

During the study, DEQ developed a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Department of Health, and other local agencies are working to identify the sources of pollution in the watersheds of these streams.

The public comment period will extend from **April 7, 2014** through **May 6, 2014**.

For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov.

Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs.aspx>